

8th Grade Orange Team Science
Class Requirements and Expectations
Mr. Hopkins

Welcome to Orange team science. I look forward to an exciting and challenging year. We will be studying the physical sciences (physics and chemistry) for most of the year. Physics is the scientific discipline that studies energy and how it affects matter. Chemistry is the scientific discipline that studies the forms of matter and how it interacts. As we approach the MCAS test near the end of the year we will review earth and life science concepts.

Grading:

Labs, tests and Collins topic writings are averaged at progress report time and at the end of each quarter and comprise 80% of your science grade. Journal grade is 10% and homework is 10% of your grade. It should be noted that Journal work and homework have an effect on tests and labs as well.

Student responsibilities:

- **Be prepared for class** – Students are required to have their science journal, a pencil, pen, red pen, calculator and homework assignments.
- **Participation** – Participation is a key element in gaining an understanding of scientific concepts. Sharing ideas and asking questions is an indicator of an actively involved student who is attentive to the classroom environment.
- **Contribute to a positive classroom environment** – Demonstrate respect for all members of the classroom. Show this respect by using appropriate language, helping out and considering all ideas and questions as having value. All students should feel comfortable to express their ideas and ask relevant questions.
- **Lab safety** – All students will review and sign lab safety contracts which explain procedures to be followed during labs. These contracts are to be attached to the back of your science journals. Improper use of equipment and supplies will result in the student having to attend extra-help after school to review safety contracts and the procedures it outlines.
- **Absences** – If you are absent from school it is your responsibility to make up missed work in a timely manner. If work is due on the day you were absent, it is due the day you return to school. Absences from class due to appointments (band, chorus etc.) are not an acceptable excuse for turning work in late.
- **Late work** – Work turned in late will be penalized 10% for each day that it is overdue. Overdue homework will not be accepted for credit.

Science work:

- **Journals** – All students are required to have their journals with them during class. Journals are used to record important information such as vocabulary, diagrams, formulas and journal labs. Journals are used as a reference source for lab packets, math in science formulas, SI units and short inquiry and procedure labs. It can also be used for preparing for tests. Making up missed journal work can be done after school

or by meeting with a classmate and getting the missing information. Journals are graded on a scale of 0 to 10 points (10 the highest score). They are graded on neatness, content and organization. Key terms are to be highlighted and subtitles underlined. Non-science information in your journal will also result in a lowering of your journal score.

- **Homework** – The majority of homework is a section reading from the text and written responses to follow-up questions (section review). The readings are related to the scientific topic students will be studying. We will be going over homework at the beginning of the period and students are required to make corrections to incorrect responses using a red pen. Homework which demonstrates poor effort will be returned to the student marked with an NA (not acceptable).
- **Lab work** – Students work on lab packets which are inquiry based (Scientific Process). The procedure of the lab is done with a partner or in small groups. The lab reports and follow-up questions are done individually and passed in when completed. Journal labs are completed in student journals and part of their journal grade. Journals can be used as a reference when students are doing lab work. Lab work must be made up within 5 days.
- **Tests** – Written assessment will be given to gauge knowledge of a scientific topic. All tests will be announced ahead of time and require student preparation. Tests consist of multiple choice questions, concept map completions, math problems (depending on topic), short answer and open-response questions. I am available after-school most days of the week except Fridays to assist students in test preparation.
- **Extra Credit** – There are no options for extra credit work. Students are responsible for monitoring their averages for each quarter by keeping track of their current average. They can meet with me during after school extra-help sessions if they need assistance in this area. There are no options for test retakes or redoing other graded work.

Textbooks:

Students do not have to bring their textbooks to class and may keep them at home if they choose (most homework is from the text). Students are responsible for covering their textbooks as well as loss or damage.

After School Sessions:

I am available after school Tuesdays for extra-help, make-ups and detentions.